

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 EB-03 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14 USIA-04 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 EURE-00 DRC-01 /060 W
----- 095289

P R 111625Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 215

INFO JUSMG/MAAG MADRID

16TH AF TORREJON SPAIN

COMNAVACTS ROTA SPAIN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6476

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MARR, MILI, SP

SUBJECT: G-3 TARIFF

REF A. MADRID 5831; B. MADRID 4809

1. BELIEVE WE ARE REACHING POINT WHERE WE CANNOT REMAIN ANY LONGER UNRESPONSIVE TO SPANISH POSITION REGARDING G-3 TARIFF AS PRESENTED TO JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING LAST JULY 3. MATTER BECOMES ALL MORE URGENT AS POV'S AND OTHER CARGO INCLUDING HOUSEHOLD GOODS WILL VERY SOON BE ARRIVING THROUGH PORT OF BARCELONA, DESTINED PRINCIPALLY FOR US ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL STATIONED ZARAGOZA AB.

2. WE ARE CURRENTLY OPERATING UNDER INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING WITH PORT AUTHORITIES IN CADIZ WHICH IS PORT OF ENTRY FOR GREAT MAJORITY OF SUCH SHIPMENTS TO US MILITARY BASES IN SPAIN. AUTHORITIES THERE HAVE WITHHELD DEMAND FOR PAYMENT PENDING RESOLUTION OF MATTER
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BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS, BUT THIS BECOMES INCREASINGLY

PRECARIOUS AS TIME PASSES.

3. WE HAVE NO SUCH INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING WITH PORT AUTHORITIES AT BARCELONA, HOWEVER, AND MUST EXPECT THAT THEY WILL REQUIRE PAYMENT WHEN SHIPMENTS BEGIN TO ARRIVE, OR THAT WE WILL FIND IT NECESSARY TO PERSUADE THEM TO WITHHOLD REQUIREMENT FOR PAYMENT FOR INDETERMINATE PERIOD OF TIME, A DECISION WHICH ONLY AUTHORITIES IN MADRID CAN ULTIMATELY SANCTION.

4. IF, WHEN FIRST SHIPMENTS BEGIN TO ARRIVE, PAYMENT IS REQUIRED AND WE REFUSE, ONLY INTERIM ALTERNATIVE IS COSTLY STORAGE AT PORT WHICH IF PROLONGED WOULD FAR EXCEED G-3 TARIFF CHARGE, WOULD GREATLY INCONVENIENCE US GOVT AS WELL AS THOSE PERSONS AWAITING THEIR AUTOMOBILES AND EFFECTS, AND WOULD ENHANCE POSSIBILITIES OF PILFERAGE AND DAMAGE.

5. I THEREFORE ONCE AGAIN URGE THAT WE TAKE A POSITION ON THIS MATTER, PERHAPS ALONG LINES SUGGESTED IN OUR REFTEL B, BUT THAT IN ANY CASE WE HAVE SOMETHING TO PRESENT TO THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME AND AVOID FURTHER DELAYS. NEXT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING WILL SOON BE UPON US WITHOUT ANY RESPONSE FROM OUR SIDE SINCE LAST MEETING WHEN WE SUGGESTED MATTER BE RESOLVED AT PERMANENT SECRETARIAT LEVEL.

6. REQUEST URGENT REPLY.
RIVERO

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NNN

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